



## Life & Death on the C & O Canal



The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual *Life & Death on the C&O Canal* is Saturday October 17, 2009, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

For those of you new to the park, ***Life & Death on the C&O Canal*** is a one-hour living history interpretive program. Through various scenes visitors experience the struggle to survive on the C&O Canal during its construction and operation. Accidents, epidemics and the American Civil War were just a few of the tragedies that plagued the men, women and children who lived and labored along the canal. Throughout the evening we will present the program 11 times, programs begin every 15 minutes with approximately 25-30 visitors per group.

In order to present the biggest interpretive program at the C&O Canal NHP of the year we need approximately 100 volunteers. There are volunteer opportunities for speaking roles, non-speaking parts, lantern carriers, behind-the-scenes workers, set-up and clean up duties, helping with food and in other support areas. We would like you to participate in this year's program. An event like this is not possible without volunteers like you.

The park will provide your supper and refreshments throughout the evening. But most importantly, though, we hope to provide you with a wonderful time.

Every year we try to change the program just a bit in order to keep it interesting to both the participants and the visitors. The anticipated scenes for 2009 are:

**Lock Tender Elizabeth Case** will introduce the program to each group.

The murder of a lockkeeper is solved in a **Bar Room Brawl**.

A new scene for 2009 involves **Underground Railroad** operations along the C&O Canal. An escaping slave family is captured along the tow path.

Another new scene: the Great Falls Tavern was a known spot for **Confederate Spies** during the Civil War. Learn about Confederate covert operations along the canal.

Gold fever leads to an explosion and the **Tommy Knocker** comes alive.

An overview of the **Cholera Epidemic** that occurred on the canal.

The **Retreat from Balls Bluff** was the aftermath of bloody battle fought near the canal during the US Civil War. Union soldier re-enactors retrieve bodies and the field hospital personnel attempt to save the lives of the wounded.

The **Houley-Ghouley Gang** wrecked havoc on the good citizens of Williamsport.

During the Prohibition Era a **Bootlegger's Drowning** was commonplace. Charlie Goodheart's body was found in Lock 34, an apparent accident...or was it murder?

Learn about **Mosby's Confederate Cavalry** and the legend of buried treasure near the Monocacy aqueduct.

To commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry, this year we are bringing back a popular scene: the hanging of Lockkeeper John Cook. Witness his public execution at the canal's version of **Hangman's Hill**.

**The Storyteller** concludes the program.

Several new vignettes for 2009 are still being worked out. These will be released as the date of the event approaches. Scenes are subject to change.

The 9:15 presentation was such a huge success last year we are going to do it again. This presentation is for park employees, volunteers and their families. It is free of charge, but reservations are required. If your family members would like to see the program, and your performance, please invite them. If 9:15 pm is too late they are welcome to join us earlier and pay the regular fee.

The prices for the program this year:

Adults (14 – 61) \$6.00  
Seniors (62+) \$4.00  
Children (4-14) \$4.00

### CALENDAR:

**September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
***Life & Death on the C&O Canal*** Volunteer Meeting  
@ Tavern Visitor Center  
5:30 – 7:00 PM  
RSVP for Volunteer Meeting  
A.S.A.P.

**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**  
Advance reservations for the program begin.

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009**  
RSVP to Aly Baltrus or Mark Myers regarding participation in this year's event.

**October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
Life and Death on the C&O Canal  
6:30 – 9:00 PM

## Message from the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park

If you are interested in participating please contact either Supervisory Park Ranger Aly Baltrus at [aly\\_baltrus@nps.gov](mailto:aly_baltrus@nps.gov) or Park Ranger Mark Myers at [mark\\_myers@nps.gov](mailto:mark_myers@nps.gov) or by calling us at: (301) 767-3702 or (301) 491-1902 respectively. If you have already signed up and need additional information about the night's event please do not hesitate to contact us.

This is the thirteenth year that ***Life and Death on the C&O Canal*** has been presented to the public. The program has evolved and become a great success, largely due to the volunteers. This program can not be presented without volunteer assistance.

The C&O Canal wishes to thank you for all the work you do for this program and throughout the year. We appreciate your interest and support.

Mark Myers  
Park Ranger, Interpretation  
Coordinator of ***Life & Death on the C&O Canal***  
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(301) 491-1902

Aly Baltrus  
Palisades District Interpreter  
Co-Coordinator of ***Life & Death on the C&O Canal***  
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## Volunteer Information for The Big Night

The day of the event volunteers should plan on reporting to the Great Falls Visitor Center area by 4:00 PM. If you need period clothing, please arrive earlier in order to have enough time to find suitable attire.

Regular interpretive operations will be in place, and with the added activity for the evening's program, there will be a need for additional assistance.

If you are interested in assisting with the set-up prior to and the day of the event, please contact us and let us know what time you are available.

Here is additional advice for the night of the event:

**DO NOT BRING VALUABLES;** leave them in your vehicle or at home. We have no way to secure such items and cannot be responsible for lost or missing items.

**WEAR DARK COLORS & BOOTS;** we have several period outfits and we will try to accommodate everyone, but it may not be possible. Jeans, flannel/plaid shirts and dark boots can help supplement our wardrobe.

**DRESS IN LAYERS;** whether late October is warm or cold, layers are the best way to be prepared.

The tentative schedule for the day of the program is:

9:00 - 4:00 PM	General Setup
4:00 PM	Visitor Center Closes
4:00 PM	Volunteers Arrive & Sign In.
4:15 PM	Weapons Inspection in Courtyard
4:30 PM	Tickets Distributed
4:30 PM	General Program & Safety Briefing
4:45 PM	Supper is Served
5:30 PM	Report to scenes for rehearsal
6:15 PM	Tavern will reopen as tour group gathering area
6:30 PM	Program tours leave visitor center every 15 minutes
9:15 PM	Final tour for participants, staff, volunteers, etc.
10 - 10:15 PM	Tours end.
10:15 PM - ?	Dessert in Courtyard & Initial Clean-up

We are always in need of additional props. If anybody has some of the following that you do not mind lending us please let us know when you RSVP.

Canvas tents, small or large

Blankets

Large kettle (that can be used on an open fire)

Wooden trestle/table

Chairs, wooden

Boxes, wooden

Barrels, wooden

Bibles

Tin cans, no aluminum

Bottles, liquor/whiskey

